

REMARKS

This responds to the Office Action mailed on September 21, 2005.

Claim 1 is amended, no claims are canceled, and no claims are added; as a result, claims 1-15 remain pending in this application.

§103 Rejection of the Claims

Claims 1-7, and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kamiya (U.S. 4,356,877) in view of Runde (U.S. 3,257,860). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection for at least the following reasons.

The rejection states that, Kamiya discloses a motorcycle including “an output shaft (28), a driving sprocket (25) rotatably mounted on adaptor (26), said adaptor is connected to said frame by a series of bolts (50).” The rejection further states that a bearing (29) is placed between output shaft (28) and the adaptor (26).

Applicant respectfully submits the Kamiya patent has been misinterpreted. Figure 6 of Kamiya shows more detail on the arrangement of components in Kamiya. A driving sprocket wheel (25) appears in Figure 6, however the driving sprocket wheel (25) appears to be coupled to “output shaft 11 of power unit P” (column 2, line 67-68), and not in fact coupled to element (28). Driving sprocket wheel (25) does not appear to be mounted to any structure via a bearing. A pivot shaft (28) appears to allow a rear fork (Rf) to rotate on a bearing (29) with respect to the rest of the motorcycle. The rear fork (Rf) appears to be coupled to an adaptor (26) and the adaptor (26) in turn is “fixed to the left side of the crankcase (18) by bolts 27” (column 3, lines 2-3).

Runde appears to show a design for a single sprocket (10) having a composite structure. The suggested combination in the pending Office Action appears to replace driving sprocket wheel (25) of Kamiya with the single sprocket (10) of Runde. However, Applicant is unable to find in the suggested combination both a *drive pulley* rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket, wherein the rigid bracket is attached to a frame and a *transmission output gear* attached to an output of a transmission. Applicant is further unable to find in Kamiya or Runde either alone or in combination a drive pulley rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket separate from an output of a transmission.

In the interest of moving the present application forward towards allowance, Applicant has amended claim 1. In contrast to Kamiya and Runde, independent claim 1 as amended includes a drive pulley rotatably mounted to a rigid bracket separate from an output of a transmission, wherein the rigid bracket is attached to a frame. Further in contrast, independent claim 14 includes a drive pulley rotatably mounted to a bracket via a bearing, wherein the bracket is adapted to be attached to a frame of a motorcycle. Mounting drive pulleys directly on an engine shaft as shown in Kamiya is described as problematic in the present specification on page 1, paragraph 0003.

Because the cited references, either alone or in combination, do not show every element of Applicant's independent claims, a 35 USC § 103(a) rejection is not supported by the references. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to Applicant's independent claims 1 and 14. Additionally, reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested with respect to the remaining claims that depend therefrom as depending on allowable base claims.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 9-13 were allowed. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowance.

Claims 8 and 15 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but were indicated to be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicant acknowledges and thanks the Examiner for the indication of allowability, however, pursuant to arguments presented above, claims 8 and 15 were not rewritten in independent form at this time.

CONCLUSION

Applicant respectfully submits that the claims are in condition for allowance, and notification to that effect is earnestly requested. The Examiner is invited to telephone Applicant's attorney at (612) 373-6944 to facilitate prosecution of this application.

If necessary, please charge any additional fees or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 19-0743.

Respectfully submitted,

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By their Representatives,

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Date 12-21-05

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CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Amendment, Commissioner of Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 21 day of December, 2005.

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